

Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
Steering Committee (SC) Meeting
October 31, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
California Farm Bureau Federation Conference Room
2300 River Plaza Ave, Sacramento, CA

Draft Meeting Notes

Associated documents/handouts:

- Agenda
- Draft BDCP Meeting Notes September 5, 2008
- Handout #1 BDCP Steering Committee Schedule of Agenda Topics
- Handout #2 Draft Proposed Outline for Chapter 3
- Handout #3 Third Draft Habitat Restoration Conservation Measures
- Handout #4 Third Draft Other Stressors Conservation Measures
- Handout #5 Draft Water Operations Conservation Measures
- Handout #6 Draft Process and Schedule for Development of the Comprehensive BDCP Conservation Strategy

Action Items and Key Decisions

- Approved BDCP Draft Meeting Notes September 5, 2008 with corrections

Updates

- Name placards have been placed on the meeting table to assist in identifying members and alternates of the Steering Committee.
- Karla Nemeth has joined the Resources Agency and has become a member of the Management Team. Karla will focus primarily on public outreach efforts.
- The Delta Vision Task Force (DV) produced its final report for the DV Cabinet Committee. The DV Cabinet Committee plans to hold two public workshops.
- Copies of the "State of the Bay Delta" Science Report are available.
- The Director of DWR has announced significant reductions in water allocations.
- The Fish and Game Commission is adopting the third version of section 2084 candidate species regulation for longfin smelt. At end of February 2009, the Fish and Game Commission will make a listing decision on longfin.
- The CalFed funded project to build a pipeline to replace the unlined Contra Costa canal received final authorizations. In addition, an alternative CCWD intake on Victoria Canal is under construction.
- USFWS is working on the third NOI for the NEPA process on the BDCP. This NOI will include a purpose and need statement and identify potential alternatives. The NOI will likely be submitted to the *Federal Register* in mid November. A draft should be available to the SC by next week. The next round of scoping meetings will follow publication of the NOI.
- NMFS announced that it had circulated a report summary that discusses a proposed rule to list the Pacific Eulachon (or "candlefish"). In addition, the Central Valley salmonid Recovery Plan has been provided to the Center for Independent Experts for review. The targeted release date is early 2009.

BDCP Steering Committee Schedule of Agenda Topics

Paul Cylinder presented the *BDCP Steering Committee Schedule of Agenda Topics* (see associated handouts and documents). SC members discussed issues related to the schedule.

In regard to work effort and schedule, SC discussed the efficacy of the current conservation measures (CM), whether there are measurable targets, and the large effort needed to define measurable targets and goals.

Draft Proposed Outline for Chapter 3

Paul Cylinder presented the *Draft Proposed Outline for Chapter 3* (see associated handouts and documents). Updates to Chapter 3 will be discussed at SC meetings, specifically sections 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4.

SC members discussed questions raised by the document including future updates, which working groups will address which chapter sections, terrestrial species recommendations from independent science, covered natural communities. Requests for list of NCCP Act requirements, addition of an "Expected Outcomes" section to Chapter 3, and an updated outline of full BDCP document at next SC meeting. Discussion of how changing reservoir conditions and operations will be addressed, whether dams will be considered, whether upstream activities will be addressed or considered, the need to set specific goals and targets, the need for an OCAP consultation, changing flood control rules, and the potential need for additional parties at the table.

Conveyance Working Group

Armin Munevar reported on the CalLite interactive session results. A second CalLite interactive session will be scheduled. The new Integration Team was established and will consist primarily of co-chairs of the other BDCP working groups and technical teams.

Integration Process

Paul Cylinder presented the *Draft Process and Schedule for Development of the Comprehensive BDCP Conservation Strategy* (see associated handouts and documents). Members of the Integration Team discussed needs, process of conservation measure integration, and goals of the team.

Public comment:

Ann Spaulding representing the City of Antioch asked for an explanation on the use of "constraints in relationship to reservoirs." John Cain responded with examples of constraints on the system. Will Stelle indicated that there are biological and physical constraints as well.

Barbara Byrne of the PCL asked whether the upstream reservoir operations are included in the BDCP and if so how they would be addressed. Sue Fry responded that currently the SC is working to layer all the processes together to address all the different effects.

Water Operations Conservation Measures:

Paul Cylinder presented the *Draft Water Operations Conservation Measures* (see associated handouts/documents). These conservation measures have been discussed at the Conveyance WG, however, they have not been approved or recommended by the WG. SC comments are requested; a standard comment form will be sent out. This document provides rationale for operations measures, but not necessarily specific operational values at this time. Tables 1 and 2 do not exist yet, they will be populated with specific numeric values as the operational conservation measures are evaluated and developed.

SC members discussed issues raised by the handout, including:

- need for review of this document by the Conveyance WG
- concerns about Yolo Bypass and notching Fremont Weir
- need for public outreach in the Yolo area and outreach to other local HCPs
- member responsibility to participate in outreach
- need for a briefing of the Lower Yolo Bypass Forum
- creation of a "Good Neighbor" program

- flood control issues
- DWR's land survey meetings
- updates on the EIR/EIS process
- reaching out to mosquito abatement districts
- the need for cooperation with third parties
- a request to provide more detail in the "Implementation Consideration" section of each operational parameter.

Handout #3 Third Draft Habitat Restoration Conservation Measures

Paul Cylinder discussed the *Draft Habitat Restoration Conservation Measures* (see associated handouts/documents). SAIC has received very few comments on this document.

Handout #4 Third Draft Other Stressors Conservation Measures

SC members discussed status of *Draft Other Stressors Conservation Measures*. Request for additional comments on this document.

The outline of Chapter 3 includes a placeholder section where conservation measures will be added to address terrestrial species.

Working Groups, Technical Teams, and Liaisons

Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group

Roger Patterson (co-chair) reporting that the WG is continuing work on the Adaptive Management plan for Chapter 3. They expect the draft in 2 weeks. Governance "Working Principles" document is still in development by the WG. Richard Roos-Collins has received a letter from Sacramento County with comments about the draft Working Principles document.

Science Liaisons

Wayne Spencer presented an update on the terrestrial workshop. The science advisors report is about 99 percent complete and should be ready next week. There was a Science Liaisons conference call yesterday. Wayne and Bruce have put together an outline for the Adaptive Management workshop. Science Liaisons members have until COB to comment on list of scientists for the workshop. The goal is to convene the Adaptive Management workshop in December. SC members requested a list of disciplines that will be represented among the advisors.

Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group

Gary Bobker reported that the WG met yesterday and will meet again next week. Progress is being made on a framework/application. The WG is focused on refining the goals and objectives list. The group had a useful session regarding the difference between objectives and conservation measures. They also made progress on addressing the different needs of objectives for species vs. objectives for the ecosystem and natural communities. SAIC will revise the draft for the next meeting. The WG will review existing recovery plans for additional information. SC members asked the group to identify specific needs for additional resources.

Public Comment

Linda Dorn representing the Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District: She is offering their technical expertise with water quality. She requests information about how to participate in Integration Team meetings. Ms. Dorn was directed to the BDCP web site for meeting schedule information.

Jason Peltier reported they are still working on scheduling a tour of the SCRSD wastewater treatment plant for Steering Committee members.

Attendees

Management and Representatives

Karen Scarborough (Chair, The Resources Agency)
Will Stelle (The Resources Agency)
Laura King Moon (State Water Contractors)
Marc Ebbin (The Resources Agency/DWR)
Karla Nemeth (The Resources Agency)
Leo Winternitz (California Bay-Delta Authority)
Barbara McDonnell (DWR)
Sue Fry (USBR)
Brent Walthall (Kern County Water District)
Roger Patterson (Metropolitan)
Greg Zlotnick (Santa Clara Valley)
Jason Peltier (Westlands)
Kurt Arends (Zone 7)
Steve Ottemoeller (Friant Water Authority)
Melinda Terry (North Delta Water Authority)
Richard Roos-Collins (American Rivers/Natural Heritage Institute)
Kim Delfino (Defenders of Wildlife)
Ann Hayden (Environmental Defense)
John Cain (Natural Heritage Institute)
Anthony Saracino (The Nature Conservancy)
Kenny Watkins (California Farm Bureau Federation)
Greg Gartrell (Contra Costa Water District)
John McCamman (DFG)
Carl Wilcox (DFG)
John Engbring (USFWS)
Ted Meyers (NMFS)
Paul Cylinder (SAIC)
Pete Rawlings (SAIC)

On phone

Tom Howard (SWRCB)
John Cillemi (Mirant)
Gary Bobker (The Bay Institute)
John Chillemi (Mirant)
Ara Azhderian (SLDMWA)
Wayne Spencer (Conservation Biology Institute)

Other attendees

See sign-in sheets
